



STATE OF ARIZONA

JANICE K. BREWER
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

September 3, 2014

Ms. Tanya N. Garfield, Director
United States Small Business Administration
Field Operations Center - West
P. O. Box 419004
Sacramento, CA 95841-9004

SUBJECT: State of Arizona Request for U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)
Physical Disaster Loan Declaration for Maricopa County

Dear Director Garfield:

Under the provisions of 13 C.F.R. § 123.3(a)(3) and (5), I respectfully request that you declare a U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Physical Disaster Declaration for Maricopa County and the respective contiguous counties as a result of flooding that occurred August 12-19, 2014 causing significant damage to many homes and businesses in the Phoenix area.

Based on information provided by the Maricopa County Flood Control District and the Arizona Water Science Center, storms occurred August 12-19, 2014 and resulted in ongoing major flooding in Maricopa County. During that time, Maricopa County received rainfall on seven of eight consecutive days. This continued saturation of soil in concentrated areas created flash-flood conditions and subsequent impacts to more than 350 homes and businesses within the Phoenix area. Atmospheric moisture was measured at 1.5 times greater than normal for mid-August. The abundant moisture, combined with the approaching trough and mid-level southwesterly winds, provided an ideal setup for storm development and training (storms continuously re-developing over the same area).

The communities of Laveen and New River were the heaviest hit by the flooding. Laveen received 3.97 inches of rain and the New River area received 6.85 inches of rain during the same time period. The rivers and tributaries that flow into the New River received in excess of five inches of rainfall, causing the normally dry creek bed of the New River to crest to a height of nine feet and water flow levels of more than 8,000 cubic feet per second. These above-average rainfalls in a compressed time frame resulted in significant flooding in both areas.

To put this into perspective, the average annual rainfall for the Phoenix metro-area is seven inches per year. This one week event caused flooding above and beyond historical averages, and created negative impacts that compounded throughout the week.

On August 26-27, 2014 a joint Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) was performed in Maricopa County with personnel from the U.S. Small Business Administration, the Arizona

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Division of Emergency Management (ADEM), Maricopa County Emergency Management, City of Phoenix Emergency Management, and the American Red Cross. The PDA demonstrated major damage to at least 41 homes/businesses and minor damage to an additional 61 homes/businesses. Based on the results of the joint PDA, the teams have confirmed that the number of primary residences and businesses experiencing physical loss as a result of the August 2014 Flooding Event exceeds the minimum threshold of 25. Therefore, I am requesting the SBA to designate Maricopa County, Arizona for a Physical Disaster Declaration.

In response to this incident, the City of Phoenix activated its Tactical Operation Center to coordinate emergency measures. The Phoenix Fire Department and the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office performed several tactical rescue operations for individuals trapped by flood waters. Additionally, Maricopa County and the City of Phoenix opened two flood recovery information centers to assist residents and businesses impacted by the event. The American Red Cross has conducted basic case management services for residents, and as needed, provided temporary sheltering options for displaced individuals. Additional Statewide Arizona Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster partners have provided clean up kits and disaster recovery expertise services. Based on the documentation from the joint PDA and local response efforts, I have determined that the severity and magnitude of this emergency is above and beyond the resources of the city, county, and state governments to assist residents and businesses in Maricopa County. I hereby certify that more than 25 primary residences and businesses have suffered physical loss as a direct result of the August 2014 Flooding Event.

ADEM can provide support identifying locations for the establishment of a SBA Disaster Loan Outreach Center (DLOC). I request sufficient SBA personnel to process applications and perform outreach and community relations for the requested loan programs for an appropriate duration.

I have designated Wendy Smith-Reeve, Director, Arizona Division of Emergency Management under the Department of Emergency and Military Affairs, at 602-464-6203 or Wendy.Smith-Reeve@azdema.gov, to coordinate all matters on behalf of the State of Arizona pertaining to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Janice K. Brewer", written in a cursive style.

Janice K. Brewer
Governor

cc: Major General Michael T. McGuire, Director
Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs

Wendy Smith-Reeve, Director
Arizona Division of Emergency Management